

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated January 22, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Griffin, III (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,870) in view of Houser, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,855,552) with evidence from Davies, et al., "The Rate Dependence of Confor Polyurethane Foams," *Cellular Polymers*, vol. 18, no. 2 (1999). In making this rejection, the Examiner asserts that the heating device described in Houser is akin to the heating block or rod recited in the present claims. However, the heating device in Houser completely surrounds the tubular body 12 and is used to heat the outside of the tubular body 12 after the electrode rings 20 are placed. See Figures 8 and 9, and column 3, lines 15-40. In particular, Figures 8 and 9 show that the heating element is used to expand the tubular body 12 around the electrode rings 20. See also, column 3, lines 15-40 (describing the heating device as expanding the tubular body). As the heating device of Houser completely surrounds the outside of the tubular body, the heating device cannot heat the shaft of the tip section *during wrapping*, as recited in independent claim 1. Indeed, the heating device of Houser would prevent access to the shaft of the tip section during heating, making wrapping the portion of the electrode lead wire around the circumference of the shaft impossible.

Moreover, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite the that shaft is *internally* heated using a heating block or rod. None of Griffin, Houser and Davies teach or suggest such a feature. Rather, as discussed above, Houser discloses a heating device that completely surrounds the *outside* of the tubular body. As none of Griffin, Houser and Davies, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest that the shaft is *internally* heated using a heating block or rod *during wrapping*, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-7 and 9, are allowable over Griffin, Houser and Davies.

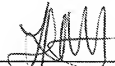
Claims 1-7 and 9 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to place the claims in condition for allowance. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, for example at Figure 4. No new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of

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pending claims 1-7 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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